

A Publication of News and Events

*Well, I live in a small town, And I can breath in a small town
I've seen it all in a small town, Had myself a ball in a small town
My home is in a small town, And that's good enough for me...*

John Mellencamp, "Small Town" from the album *Scarecrow* on Mercury Records, 1985

The Town of Trappe 1856 - 2003

*For much of the time from 1873 to 1902, Trappe had its own newspaper, locally edited and published, and featuring news of local events along with "canned" features known as boilerplate. The first of these newspapers was called *The Index*, a small-format monthly by Robert T. Mullikin, local storekeeper and postmaster. It lasted only a year and its circulation was just 100 copies. So it couldn't have shown a profit; in fact, Mullikin reportedly published it solely for his own amusement.*

Reprinted from *Trappe The Story of an Old-Fashioned Town*, by Dickson Preston. The book is available for purchase at the Trappe town office for \$5.00 plus tax.

A Blast from the Past ~ "The Index" ~ Déjà vu

Trappe Town Council

- Council passed an amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance requiring community open space in all new subdivisions.
- MOSH requirements have caused the Council to examine its water chlorination process. Results of the public workshop held on July 28th were discussed at the Council meeting and the Council approved conversion from gas to liquid chlorination.
- Ordinance 6-2003, an amendment creating Floating Zones to govern Planned Development in annexed areas was introduced. A Public Hearing on the ordinance will be held at 7:00 pm prior to the regular September 3rd Council meeting.
- The Council requested a "BOCA" board review of the Draft Stormwater Ordinance, the board will report their findings at the next Council meeting on September 3, 2003. A Public Hearing will be held at 7:15 pm following the Floating Zone hearing.
- Frank Hall was welcomed as Trappe's newest employee. Frank has been selected as the Town Planning officer. Frank is well respected in our County and his experience with Talbot County Planning make him uniquely qualified for Trappe, we are grateful he has chosen to work with our town. Our recent Annexation Agreement allowed for funding for a new town position, so the town will be reimbursed for this expense.
- How do Council members come to their decisions: At Council meetings most votes are unanimous and with little debate. This is a result of our procedure for conducting business. When the need for action is presented to the Council, depending on the issue, a workshop is scheduled or a committee may be chosen to review and report to the Council. It is during Workshops that alternatives are debated, experts consulted, etc. This usually results in a Draft Ordinance which is then introduced at a regular meeting, after which the draft is also available to the public. A public hearing is scheduled, usually prior to the next regular meeting. This generally allows a month to pass in which Council can review the draft and also personally accept any public comment. Depending on the results of the public hearing, the Ordinance may be voted on at the next regular meeting. All meetings are posted on the Town Calendar and the process is meant to be very public, so please join us at scheduled meetings.

Trappe Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission had no scheduled work at the August meeting. In response to a complaint of trees being removed from properties by homeowners in La Trappe Hts., the Zoning Administrator reported that there is no requirement that trees on personal property be maintained and the Town has no authority to require that homeowners replace removed trees.
- The Commission went into its regular workshop and made further changes to the proposed "PN" Planned Neighborhood Zone. This Zone is very close to final draft form.
- The Commission also requested consultants Redmond and Johnston make recommendations for an "Old Town" Village Center restoration district. This will be presented at a future workshop. Workshops are held most Wednesdays, see the Town calendar.

Information from the Town Clerk:



Trappe POTTERY IS HERE and can be seen and purchased at the Town Office. A special piece will be offered each year featuring a picture of a town church. The first of these will feature Scott's United Methodist Church for 2003 and St. Paul's Episcopal Church for 2004. We will continue with each church for the coming years. Perfect for collecting and holiday gift giving!

- The Town Office will be **CLOSED** on Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2003.
- **MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN:** When mowing lawns, please do not let grass go in the street or into storm drains. The Town (that would be your taxes) must pay to have the stormwater drains cleaned of grass and other debris. We could use money saved for other improvements. Thank you.
- **Don't you just love the Main Street decorations during the Holidays? Volunteers are needed now for a DECORATION COMMITTEE.** Special thanks to Mr. Henry Outten for making the boxes to go on the poles for hanging decorations.
 - *Please check your water meter in the front of your property - many have grass growing over them - if they can not read your meter it will effect your billing!!*



WHY NOT RECYCLE? (Part 1: Convenience) Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are almost over - "those days of cold drinks & snacks." Many of those empty containers can be conveniently recycled without leaving town! Have you noticed those colorful domes adjacent to the firehouse and Shore Stop? Those color-coded "igloos" may look like giant Pacmen, but they gobble recyclables, including cans, plastic bottles, clear, brown, and green glass, newspapers, and "miscellaneous paper," including phone books, paperbacks, catalogs, and my particular favorite: junk mail. Once you get into the swing of recycling, it's easy to drop off these materials on your way to and from home. And you'll notice a big difference in the amount of garbage you place in your home trash receptacle. Because town trash expense is based on weight, less trash on the curb means lower cost to the town. So, why not recycle?!

TRAPPE HAS A GREAT AND INFORMATIVE WEB SITE - CHECK IT OUT!! www.trappemd.net



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Spotlight on Local Goods & Services
This Month: Nelson Auction Gallery, Inc.

“When one lives in the same town all one’s life, people get to know you,” says Esther Nelson of Nelson Auction Gallery. Generations of her family have resided in Trappe for most of the town’s history. “The cemeteries will attest to that,” she adds. At 86 years old, Mrs. Nelson has traveled a rustic Main Street in a horse-drawn carriage. She was there on the infamous day when a big thunderstorm rolled in and “rained frogs,” suddenly covering the streets of Trappe with millions of tiny frogs. “Every time you stepped, it would squish!” she recalls. She lived here when Trappe was mostly farmland, when what is now Main Street was the major byway into Easton, when the original Choptank River Bridge and Bay Bridge were built, and when Route 50 was a 2-lane road. She graduated from Trappe High School in 1934 and married her husband, Ira, eight years later. When Mr. Nelson returned from World War II, he and his father-in-law built the Nelson home using a mule-pulled pull-scoop to dig the basement. Ira and Esther had three children, Ira, Jr. (Bo), Sharon, and Edward. They raised poultry for a few years, Esther rolling each baby in a feed cart while she worked. “This was in the days of pre-automatic chicken houses,” Mrs. Nelson says, “and the feeding, watering, and ventilating was all handwork.”

In 1952, they built their store next door to the house, which now stands on westbound Route 50. At first, it was Nelson Furniture Exchange, a retail store selling furniture, appliances, and lawn and garden equipment. A few years later, they began doing estate auctions and eventually phased out the retail side of the business and changed the name to Nelson Auction Gallery, Inc. They conducted estate auctions as far away as Ocean City, Richmond, and Garrett County, in all kinds of weather, even during snowstorms. Edward recalls the time when a customer, the late John Quidas, Jr., handed his gloves to him to wear while calling just such an auction.

Edward had worked in the business since 1968 and became auctioneer after his father (shown here auctioning a plow in the early days) passed away in 1988. Every 2-3 weeks, the auction crew (including grandson, Rodney, also an auctioneer) unstacks the chairs at the back of the gallery and sets up Mr. Nelson’s original auctioneer’s stand for an all-day auction affair. “Every auction is different,” Edward says, “depending on what has come in.” The gallery is brimming with an every-changing inventory of auction items of every sort, from collectibles, to toys, to antiques, to pianos, and household items (the old, converted chicken houses come in handy for storage). Some auctions offer a variety of goods; others may feature only specialty items, such as antiques, firearms, or porcelain. Today, modern methods have come to town, and on auction day bids may come in not only in person, but also via the Internet, live-time telephone, and cell phones on the auction floor. Esther’s daughter-in-law, Charlene Nelson, executes the telephone bids and is cashier.



To be successful in the auction business, Mrs. Nelson says, “The one word is *dedication*. You’ve got to be there and available for the public. I’ve had a business telephone line in my home since 1952. I answer calls 24 hours a day.”

Edward adds, “You can have all the Internet you want, people still want to talk to a real person.”

Esther Nelson can tell you about any item on the auction floor, and she opens the gallery every morning and locks up every night. “I could be called retired,” she says. But a lifetime of dedication still shines through.

For more information about Nelson Auction and Gallery, Inc. call 410-476-3140 or 410-476-9925, send email to nelsons@intercom.net, or visit their Web site at www.nelsonauction.com.

Trappe Volunteer Fire Company — We are selling raffle tickets for a Fishing Trip on Justin Firth’s Charter Boat. For more information, call Willie Smith @ 410-476-3466.



Friends of Homerun Baker Park, Inc. invites you to attend their Annual Meeting Thursday, September 25th at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall. Come share your ideas, learn about our past, and become part of our future. Info: Skip Marvel 410-476-5250 or Janis Lester 410-476-3580.











September 2003



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Please drive carefully

	1		2	3		4	5		6
Use your Free time wisely...	Town Office Closed School Closed			7:00 pm Public Hearings See Council notes 7:30 pm Town Council Mtg.		TCPS Parent Involvement Mtg 3:00-4:00 pm Talbot Ed Ctr Rm #2	EMS Cheerleaders' Back to School Dance 6-9:00 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 Family			EMS PTA Meeting 7:00 - 8:30pm	Back to School Night WMES 7 pm EHS 6 pm		 Country Church Breakfast Trappe UMC			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 Friends			 7:30 pm Planning & Zoning Mtg.						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
 Freedom				 Friends of Homerun Baker Park Annual Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall Public Welcome		 Country Church Breakfast Trappe UMC	 Fish ?		
October 31, 2003									
Next Bulk Trash Pickup									
NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 22, 2003.									

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



Sarah Sewell on receiving a Regents Scholarship from the University of Maryland System. Sarah was selected for academic excellence and service to the college from among state-wide applicants. According to Chesapeake College president, Stuart M. Bounds, “These scholarships are among the most prestigious and competitive in the state.” Because Regent Scholarships cover tuition, fees, room and board, plus additional expenses, they are especially competitive. Sarah has an outstanding record of service to Chesapeake College, serving in student organizations and volunteering for college activities. She also worked in Chesapeake’s Learning Assistance Center tutoring other students. A math major, Sara graduated this year with a 4.0 grade point average. “I really didn’t think I would be selected, so I was very surprised. It’s nice to know that hard work pays off,” she said of her selection. Sara will attend Salisbury University in the fall and major in education. Eventually she hopes to earn a master’s degree and teach college math. (Excerpted from the Star Democrat, August 6, 2003.)

April Byrnes on completing the Jostens 4-day Summer Yearbook Workshop at Gettysburg College in August. Her studies covered many aspects of yearbook production and publishing, including planning, theme, layout, and photography. April is a sophomore at Easton High School and co-editor of the school’s yearbook. She is the daughter of Ann and Richard Dorbin, and lives on Main Street.

All athletes who tried out and made the teams for fall sports, including football, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, golf, and cross country teams. Training and working as a team is a valuable learning experience. As the great football coach, Vince Lombardi once said, “The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” (Not a bad motto for a small town, either!) Local athletes, boys and girls, whether you play on a school, college, or rec team, please share your achievements with us as the seasons progress.

Please submit Calendar Events and News Items to the Town Office or call Ann Dorbin at 410-476-3910 or email tinman@friend.ly.net

The Index is a publication of the Trappe Town Council. We welcome contributions and short articles that are of general interest to the community. Events reported in The Index do not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the Town Commissioners. The Commissioners reserve the right to edit or reject any item submitted.